The Lord appointed seventy-two, whom he sent in pairs to every town.

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MASS SCHEDULE
Monday thru Wednesday: 6:30am
Thursday and Friday: 8:00am
Holy Days Consult bulletin
Saturday: 8:00am and 5:00pm (Vigil)
Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, and 11:00am

CONFessions
Saturday 4:00 to 4:45pm or by appointment

Eucharistic Chapel Hours
Weekdays: 12am to 6am and 9am to 12 midnight.
Saturdays: 12am to 7am
Chapel will close at 7am Saturday until 9am Monday.
Holy Days: Please consult the bulletin.

Eucharistic Exposition—Suspended for the summer
Wednesdays after 8 a.m. Mass until Noon (closing with Benediction). Confessions 1st Wednesday.

Baptisms
Baptism Class for parents/godparents is normally held on the first Monday of the month at 7 PM in the Church. To register for the meeting and/or to arrange for a baptism, call Karen Rychlewski.

Marriage
Couples planning marriage contact the pastor at least six months in advance.

Communion Calls
Please call the Parish Office to request Communion if someone is unable to attend Church.

Hospital Visits
Please notify the Parish Office concerning hospitalization.

Registration
New parishioners may register at Parish Office or see one of the priests after Mass. New information e.g. address, phone numbers or moving from the parish, please call Parish Office.

Bulletin Information
Please submit information for the bulletin by Noon TWO Fridays before publication. Include name, daytime phone number of person submitting information, Commission and group name. Items can be e-mailed to mwelsh@holyspiritstl.org.

What’s Happening This Week
Sunday, July 7
7:00 pm—Al Anon, Community Rm.
Monday, July 8
6:00 pm—Quilting, Annex
Tuesday, July 9
9:00 am—Quilting, Annex
6:30 pm—Ladies Club, Community Rm.
7:30 pm—Fire in the Spirit, Rm. 9
Wednesday, July 10
9:00 am—Senior Exercise, Rigali Rm.
10:00 am—Grief Support, St. Lawrence Rm.
7:00 pm—Food Addicts Anonymous, Rigali Rm.
Thursday, July 11
9:00 am—Senior Exercise, Rigali Rm.
7:00 pm—Al Anon, Rm. 2
Sunday, July 14
8:00 am—Blood Drive, Annex
7:00 pm—Al Anon, Community Rm.

Basket Raffle Booth
Please consider donating new items that can be used in gift baskets. Suggested themes: sports, dinner & a movie, baby boy or girl, card/board games, crafts, NASCAR, tailgate party, cat or dog, etc. We’d love to receive donations of game, theatre, or event tickets. Would your employer consider donating a set of their season tickets? We also need baskets/containers in good condition. Please place items in the Parish Hall marked “Basket Raffle.”

Monetary or gift card donations will be gladly accepted. Purchase your gift card donations from the SCRIP Table! Please put them in an envelope marked “Basket Raffle” and place them in the collection basket or drop them off at the Parish Office.

Thanks for your help in making this year’s Carnival the best ever! Shelly Barry, 707-6049

Blood Drive
Holy Spirit Parish
In the Rigali Room of the Annex
Sunday, July 14
8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Be a Steward of Christ!
Appointment Preferred. Walk-in’s welcome.
To schedule an appointment, log on to www.bloodcenterimpact.org.
Use group sponsor code 10414

Offertory Collections
Stewardship for June 17-23, 2019
Sunday Envelopes, 230 utilized $ 9,440.00
Loose Collection $ 532.35
Online Donations, 77 families $ 6,066.00
Total $ 16,038.35
Weekly Budget $ 20,000.77
Weekly Surplus (shortfall) ($ 3,962.42)
VBS $ 47.00
HandS $ 597.00
Parish Improvements $ 140.00

2 I Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 7, 2019
Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to all!

**Director of Music…**
This weekend we welcome Marilyn O’Neill as our Director of Music for Holy Spirit Parish. She brings a vast experience in teaching and music as she assumes the role of leading our liturgical music ministry. We look forward to getting to know Marilyn as she shares her talents and passion with our parish community. Welcome, Marilyn!

**School is quiet now but don’t let that fool you!**
As we approach the middle of the summer the activity in the school has quieted down. But there has been a lot going on to prepare for the coming year. We concluded this past year with 147 students in Kindergarten through 8th Grade. The coming year our enrollment is currently 225 students K-8! While much has been prepared there is still much to do. There will be lockers installed in the middle school hall, and the Maker Space (STREAM Lab) will be moved from the lower hallway to the middle school hall. The School Kitchen is getting spruced up as we prepare to welcome back Miss Jane and Miss Diane to lead our lunch program. This and much more is taking place over the summer to prepare for the new school year. Thanks to all of you for your support of Catholic Education at Holy Spirit Parish!

**Annual Catholic Appeal Update…**
Thanks to all who have contributed to the ACA this year. We are grateful for your support. We have surpassed our challenge goal of $153,229 with pledges of $161,707. Your generous support of the ACA is truly an inspiration for all. Thank you!

This year’s pledge drive will continue through the middle of August. If you wish to contribute, please drop your pledge card in the Sunday collection or send it to the parish office. Blessings to all!

Let’s pray for each other this week.

Father Bob

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**IT’S COMING…SAVE THE DATE — FRIDAY & SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 & 7**
Mark your calendars for this year’s Annual Carnival. Plan to join us for all the family fun! Watch the bulletin for more details. Want to get involved? Contact Bryan (see below).
This is a GREAT way to meet your fellow parishioners, classmates, and other volunteers!

**HOLY SPIRIT CARNIVAL NEEDS YOU!**
The Holy Spirit Carnival has been enjoyed by many for over 40 years. We want to Thank You for being a part of the success of the carnival, whether you have enjoyed attending, working or helping out in any capacity. Thank You! You, the parishioners of Holy Spirit, are what have helped to make the carnival so successful! As you are well aware it is the largest fundraiser we have and is vital to continuing the over 30 ministries Holy Spirit provides to our community. In the past we have had great chair people and many friends work together to bring this great event to Northwest St. Louis County. **We are currently asking for help. We are looking for a few more co-chairs and also for help with running the booths that the kids love to play at.** It is so much fun working with friends and making new friends on the weekend. The best part is seeing how everyone comes together to make Our Carnival a family friendly event for all ages to enjoy.

To work together to help Holy Spirit continue to be one of the best parishes in the Archdiocese, **please contact** Bryan Hercules 956-7727 OR 1717@medicineshoppe.com.
MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, July 7
7:30am   For Our Parishioners
         Paul Meyer
9:00am   David Fennewald
11:00am

Monday, July 8
6:30 am Isabel Villadiego, Special Intention

Tuesday, July 9
6:30am   Catherine Balke

Wednesday, July 10
6:30am   Briccio R. Cadiz, Sr.

Thursday, July 11
8:00am   Norma Hedges

Friday, July 12
8:00am   Faithful Departed

Saturday, July 13
8:00am   Glennon Fuest
5:00 pm  For Our Parishioners

Sunday, July 14
7:30am   Helen Mente
9:00am   Fred DeWitt
11:00am  Ed Taszarek

FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE

We express our deep sympathy and assurance of our prayers to the family of Bob Hauser, husband of Peggy. May his soul rest in the Peace of Christ.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE — JULY 13-14

July 13-14
5:00 PM
Hospitality
M Bovier
S Ramspott
Sub Requested
D Klein
C Milligan
K Shamel
J Bamert
J Duffy
M McCarthy
Sub Requested
5:00 PM
MB Chik
D Kath
R Armon

9:00 AM
Eucharistic Ministers
J Bamert
M Dale-Bannister
A Merris
R & M Bovier
P & G Cunningham
D & M Schulte
Sub Requested

9:00 AM
D Portman
R & MB Chik
P & J Kielhofner
Sub Requested

11:00 AM
 Servers
D Neal
G Schwetz
C Walsh
W Kielhofner
D Portman
M Young
Sub Requested

$ Counters
Early
R Fetsch
J Moran

MINISTRY SCHEDULE — JULY 13-14

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

In your prayers, please remember all the sick and home-bound parishioners and those who care for them.

Irene Biggins
Becky Bonner
Nancy Brand
Jim Brockmeyer
Phil Brusca
Connie
Ed Cody
Matthew Cody
Peggy Cody
Dorothy Faerber
Till Fehrenbacher
Joe Greco
Gerald Grinstad
Steve Hirschmugl
William Hughes
Kenneth Jordan
Al Katzler
Frank Kekeisen
Clyde Klump
Marie Knox
Audrey Konopka
Mary Ann
Koperski
Tim Koperski
Charles Kraemer
Mike Lemp
Jerry McGuire
Karen Newcomb
Matt Niedringhaus
Jacob Null
Bob & Donna Pedrottii
Brian Ponder
John Rizzello
John Roberson
Bill Schneider
Rudy & Brenda Torricelli
Nanci Van Amburgh
Joe & Jean Wangler
Gene Weckherlin
Bill & Joan Weinzirl
Tom Zemblidge

Sick Relatives and Friends:

Leo Bachinski II
Jackie Craven
Colton Christian
Betty Halpin
Carter Hooker
Joe Hull
Shane Ketzler
Al & Pearl King
Sharon Knoppe
Irene Lee
Cameron Meyer
Christine Meyer
Luke Meyer
Ron Meyer
Mike Mitra
Melinda Oeth
Rosalie Provost
Anthony Pyzdrowski
Paula & Dave Schneider

Bob & Donna Pedrottii
Brian Ponder
John Rizzello
John Roberson
Bill Schneider
Rudy & Brenda Torricelli
Nanci Van Amburgh
Joe & Jean Wangler
Gene Weckherlin
Bill & Joan Weinzirl
Tom Zemblidge

FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE

We express our deep sympathy and assurance of our prayers to the family of Bob Hauser, husband of Peggy. May his soul rest in the Peace of Christ.

4 | Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, July 7, 2019
**SCHOOL NEWS**

We are currently seeking a Full-time Middle School Science/Maker Space Teacher as well as a Part-time Nurse. If interested or know someone who is, contact Mrs. Kelly Hewitt, khewitt@holyspiritstl.org

**SCHOOL SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:**
July CLOSED

Please leave a message, 314-739-1934 or email, Mrs. Kelly Hewitt, Principal – khewitt@holyspiritstl.org or Mrs. Kate Ayres, Secretary – kayres@holyspiritstl.org

Looking forward to seeing everyone August 19!

Have a Blessed summer.

Mrs. Hewitt

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**PSR NEWS**

**PSR REGISTRATION FOR 2019-20**

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION-REGISTRATION FOR 2019-20**

The Parish School of Religion has religion classes on Tuesday evenings, from 6:45-8 p.m. for students in grades 1-8 who attend public schools. PSR sessions focus on the message of Jesus, experienced within a community of faith with opportunities to pray, worship and do service for others. The students are also prepared to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Confirmation is a parish wide program coordinated by our Youth Minister, Donna Eisenbath. All families will register and make payments for PSR through our online program, [www.holyspirit.psrenroll.com](http://www.holyspirit.psrenroll.com) or PSR registration is one of the quick links on the parish website, [www.holyspiritstl.org](http://www.holyspiritstl.org). Detailed information was also sent by email to each returning family.

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**Vacation Bible School**

VBS DVDs with photos and music from the week are available in the Parish Hall. One per family please. Thanks!

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**Youth Ministry**

For some good Lenten reflections find HOLY SPIRIT YOUTH MINISTRY ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

[www.facebook.com/hsyouth](http://www.facebook.com/hsyouth) AND as HS_YOUTH_STL on Instagram

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**CATHOLIC YOUTH NIGHT** with the River City Rascals 7/27

Holy Spirit youth are taking orders for tickets. They are $13 each. These games are lots of fun for the whole family. Contact Donna Eisenbath for information and to order tickets. Get yours before they sell out.

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**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS & SENIORS – ALL ARE WELCOME:**

**NO THURSDAY EVENINGS IN JULY:** We are adjusting our summer schedule to fit yours. In July we are suspending Thursday meetings because of holidays and vacations.

We will meet on Saturdays, July 13 & 20 in the Resource Center at 11:30-1:30 for brunch.

Saturday, July 27 is the night at the Rascals game – It’ll be fun. Don’t miss out.

Sunday, July 28 we will look for a local Catholic church to visit to experience how others in our area worship.

In the past we’ve celebrated a Latin Mass, and visited St. Alphonsus “Rock” church.

Sunday, August 4 – Monday, August 5 is our Back-to-school retreat. See below.

Back-to-school retreat is Aug. 4-5. All incoming freshmen -graduated seniors invited. We’ll be attending 11:30 Mass at Holy Spirit then traveling to Camp Trinity (where we hold our spring retreats) to spend the day and night in reflection, prayer and rest. We’ll return no later than 3:00 p.m. Monday afternoon (this time is adjustable based on the needs of the group).

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**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT! (I’m looking at you, new freshmen)**

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SUMMER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES?**

We’re planning service days from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. for July 24-26. Contact Donna E. for information. Needed: adult helpers, drivers, chaperones who are PGC.

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**ADULTS WE NEED YOU!**

Looking for adults to meet this summer to help plan the fall high school and junior high meetings. Please contact Donna Eisenbath if you are interested in being involved.

**ALSO, WE ARE PLANNING FOR SUMMER GATHERINGS AND EVENTS, and we need your help to make all these things possible. Young adults, parents and empty nesters are all welcome. Our young people benefit from your life of faith and appreciate your help.**

**Summer service events July 24-26:** Wanted–drivers and chaperones. Must be willing to help with service and spend time in discussion afterwards.

**Back-to-school Retreat August 4-5:** Wanted–chaperones, planners, leaders

Interested? Want to help our teens encounter Jesus through participation in our parish community? Contact Donna Eisenbath.

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**CONFIRMATION**

Plan to work on your God Moments and service opportunities over the summer. **August 26** is our next session, **Session 7: The Eucharist from 6:45-9:00 p.m., Parish Hall.** Have a grace-filled summer!
Holy Spirit Catholic School
Red & Blue Weekly Raffle
- First Monday of every month - $100.00
- Remaining Mondays of the month - $25.00
- Drawing to be held on Mondays
  September 3, 2019 – May 18, 2020
Proceeds to benefit technology/field trip transportation
Donation: $20.00  You need not be present to win.

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Proceeds to benefit technology/field trip transportation
Donation: $20.00  You need not be present to win.
**Taste & See**
*Taste & See this Tuesday, July 9 is Cancelled due to building maintenance. See you in August!*

**Bridges Retreat**
*Bringing Ignatian Spirituality into Daily Life*
Looking to deepen your prayer life and your relationship with God? This Ignatian Retreat in Everyday Life is presented by the Bridges Foundation. It is going to be offered at four St. Louis area sites on various days and times starting in September, 2019. Over the nine month retreat, there are group meetings along with weekly, individual conferences with a prayer companion. Experience discernment, contemplation and meditation and enjoy the camaraderie of other members of the Bridges Retreat community. Look for brochures in the gathering space. The insert inside the brochure lists the sites and times of Information Sessions scheduled this summer; find these dates and more at the Bridges Retreat website, bridgesfoundation.org. Questions: contact Linda Leib, Executive Director, 314-313-8283, linda.leib@bridgesfoundation.org.

**Spiritual Adoption Program Update: Month 3:** Your baby has been quite active this month! The cartilage begins to change over to real bone. Your baby sucks his/her thumb, hiccups, and has a very expressive face. Your baby is now 3” long and can hear outside noises.

Keep praying for your baby!

**PRO-LIFE**
Happy Independence Day weekend and Religious Freedom Week!

**Fatal Flaws - A Must See Movie!**
*FREE showing on Tuesday, July 16, 7:00 P.M.*
St. Louis Priory Kevin Kline Theater: 500 S Mason Rd, St. Louis, MO 63141.
The Fatal Flaws documentary asks the question: are euthanasia and assisted suicide leading society down a dangerous path?

Sponsored by the St. Anselm Cenacle for Life and the Archdiocesan Respect Life Apostolate.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE**
"Fear is a disease that eats away at logic and makes man inhuman."
We see this at war, and with racism, and other “isms.” Sometimes in domestic violence situations.

**Stephen Ministry**
"...and he will guide them to the springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."
~ Rev 7: 17
Stephen Ministry has specially selected & trained men & women to listen with care to all they serve, & to keep all that is shared with them in strict confidentiality. Whether your struggle with emotions is what you consider small, or even if it is larger, Stephen Ministry awaits your call for help. Call 739-0230, ext.130, & leave a confidential message. Compassionate & caring listening for you!

**Bereavement Luncheon Ministry**
*Needs Your Help*
Looking for a way to provide hospitality and service to a family during an especially difficult time? Consider sharing some of your time, talent and treasure with fellow parishioners, those who are in need of our love and compassion by assisting with Bereavement Luncheons. Help is needed in many different ways – donating food for the luncheon, setting up for the luncheon, serving the meal and clean up. Areas of participation are available for people who can assist at the luncheon and for those who are unable to help at the luncheon but can prepare food ahead of time.

**Looking for a Way to Get Involved and Help Parishioners in Need?**
Faith in Action is a parish wide program that gives us an opportunity to serve others in need. We are in need of more volunteers particularly in the area of transportation (rides to Mass and doctor appointments). Transportation volunteers must have Protecting God’s Children training and have a copy of their insurance card and driver’s license on file. We can also use volunteers in other areas. You choose the areas in which you would like to help and the time you can commit to this ministry.

**Ladies Club Meeting**
Tuesday, July 9, 6 PM,
McAlister’s on St. Charles Rock Road
Call Karen, 291-1971 or 630-1978, for information.

**Ladies Club Craft Sale**
The Ladies Club will be hosting a Craft Sale in the Parish Hall on Sunday, October 20.
We are looking for donations to help make this a huge profitable event for the Ladies Club.
Questions or donations, contact Norma, 739-3159.
Thank you in advance for your generosity!

**LADIES CLUB MEETING**
Tuesday, July 9, 6 PM,
McAlister’s on St. Charles Rock Road
Call Karen, 291-1971 or 630-1978, for information.

**LADIES CLUB CRAFT SALE**
The Ladies Club will be hosting a Craft Sale in the Parish Hall on Sunday, October 20.
We are looking for donations to help make this a huge profitable event for the Ladies Club.
Questions or donations, contact Norma, 739-3159.
Thank you in advance for your generosity!
Riverside Golf Course
1210 Larkin Williams Rd.
Fenton, MO 63026
Four Person Scramble—Shotgun Start

Cost is $75 per golfer and includes green fees, cart, prizes, beverages, and lunch.

Tee off: 8:00am (Check in at 7:00am)

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE.

100% of the proceeds go directly to help fund activities of the Holy Spirit Athletic Association.

Entry Form

Please send payment to: HSAA
Attn: Golf Scramble Registration
3129 Parkwood Ln, Maryland Heights, MO 63043
Or Online at: http://hsaastl.org/HOME.aspx

Name Phone/Email
1
2
3
4

Questions: Pete Kielhofner (kielhopj@yahoo.com)
Bill Peroutka (peroutkajr@hotmail.com)
Shawn Benedict (bread05@sbcglobal.net

For all new sponsors, please send a .jpg with the company logo to

Bill Peroutka (peroutkajr@hotmail.com)
AROUND TOWN

DONATE FLIP FLOPS TO THE WOMEN'S NIGHT PROGRAM
St. Patrick Center needs flip flops for the women in the night program. All sizes are appreciated, but particularly sizes 9-14. Flip flop donations can be dropped off at St. Patrick Center’s Donation Center dock at the back of the building, Mon.-Fri., 8am-4pm. Questions? Katie Joseph, 802-1976, kjoseph@stpatrickcenter.org.

SSM HEALTH DEPAUL HOSPITAL
Seeking volunteers to serve in a variety of areas. Available positions include: Guest Escorts, Admitting Aides, Persons with Certified Pet Therapy dogs; Endoscopy Transporters; ICU Waiting Room Hosts; Information Desk Clerks; Patient Floor Desk Assistants, & many others. A variety of weekday & weekend hours available. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old & have completed sophomore year in high school. For more info, or to request a paper application, contact Barb Toulster, Director of Volunteer Services, 344-7083. To submit an application online, visit www.ssmhealth.com/volunteer.

Also seeking adult volunteers to serve as Eucharistic Ministers to patients. Substitute Eucharistic Minister volunteers are also needed on an on-call basis. For more information, contact Barb Toulster, 314-344-7083.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER
Are you thinking about your summer vacation? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend, away from all the distractions and pressures in your life right now, would be the BEST vacation of your life. You and your spouse will always remember this WWME Weekend away as a great time together that strengthened your marriage. The next weekends are Aug. 9-11 or Sep. 27-29, at the Courtyard Marriot in St. Peters. If you would like to apply or get more information, go to https://stl-wwme.org/schedule.php or call 314.649.7317.

YOUNG CATHOLIC MUSICIANS
The Young Catholic Musicians, an orchestra and choir of young people ages 10-17, will be holding auditions during June and July. These young people lead music for Mass once a month at different churches in the Archdiocese and perform a Christmas and Spring concert. For more info, www.archstl.org/musicians. Contact Fr. Bruce Forman, 231-7464, for info or to schedule an audition.

CALLING ALL SCIENTISTS AS WELL AS ALL THOSE INTERESTED IN SCIENCE!
Monday, July 15, St. Cletus Parish will host a “Science and Faith” evening to explore the interplay between these two pursuits. Often there are questions such as “Can scientists be believers? Is there a conflict between faith and science? Can the two be compatible? Can science nurture my faith? Does it make sense to keep science and faith separate?” We will have a panel of three scientist-parishioners who will tell us about their fields, tell us what their faith means to them in light of their science, and address common questions. Please join us for this presentation Monday, July 15, 7 PM, St. Cletus Parish Hall, 2705 Zumbehl Rd, St. Charles, 63301.

FIAT WOMEN'S GROUP
MORNING OF RECOLLECTION
Join the Fiat Women’s Group for a Morning of Recollection, Thurs., Aug. 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The morning will be led by Fr. Paul Hoesing, Dean of Seminarians; Director of Human Formation and Formation Advisor at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. This is an extended version of the monthly Fiat series. The morning will include spiritual talks, confession, adoration and the Holy Mass. Say “yes” to spending special time in prayer with Mary on this Holy Day! The event will begin at 8 a.m. and end at noon at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, 5200 Glennon Dr., St. Louis, 63119. This event is free and open to the public. See https://kenrick.edu/ fiat/ for more information.

DYNAMIC CATHOLIC, ALIVE! — WE NEED TO LEAVE OUR COMFORT ZONE FOR CHRIST
In the second reading St. Paul said, “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” In order to be Missionary Disciples, we don’t need to be scholars of the faith like St. Thomas Aquinas or St. Augustine! We just need to boast in the cross of Christ by sharing our own relationship with Jesus. Why do we need to do this? Jesus answered that question in the Gospel when He said, “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.” When we are truly alive in Christ, we radiate the miracle of what He did for each one of us. We are on fire and can’t wait to share the good news. This takes practice and it can be scary at first, but Jesus told His disciples if people don’t listen to your message when you speak in My name then wipe the dust off your feet and move on. We shouldn’t take it personally, because as Missionary Disciples we don’t speak for ourselves, we are sharing the message Christ not only provided to us but the one He died to give. It would be good to take an opportunity this week to meditate on the what, when, where, and how of our story as a friend of Christ. Once we do that, it will be much easier to share that story with others..

www.archstl.org/live-the-faith

www.archstl.org/live-the-faith
14th Sunday of Ordinary Time

In this Sunday’s Gospel reading, Jesus tells his disciples to ask the “Master” (God the Father) of the “harvest” (conversion to Christ) to send out more “laborers” (evangelizers). And in the next breath, he tells them that they are the laborers and that they must get busy: “Go on your way,” he says.

Many of us need to overcome the fear of losing control, the “I must tell others how to do their job” attitude, which chases away some very talented laborers. Jesus said we should carry no supplies into ministry; in other words: We should accept whatever is offered us.

When you think of evangelizers in the Catholic Church, who comes to mind first? Most of us think of priests, and we all know that we need more priests. New vocations in Western societies are still too few to compensate for the elderly ones who are retiring and dying.

Do you pray for an increase of vocations? Good, but that’s only part of what Jesus is asking us to do. “Go on your way,” he says to all of us, “and use your gifts, your talents, and your skills to assist in the harvest.”

Jesus has always been collaborative. The number of laborers for the mission of the Church will only be sufficient when we all join the effort—clergy, religious, and laity—working together with our separate and unique talents and skills, humbly assisting each other as members of the same team.

To reach this sufficiency, many of us have to overcome the “someone else will take care of it” attitude. And some have to overcome the desire for perfection, the “I can take care of it better myself” attitude, which robs others of the opportunity to serve.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Which ministries in your parish are lacking sufficient laborers?

2. If doing the work of God’s kingdom, how can you use your talents to help? If you’re already serving enthusiastically, how can you encourage others to get involved?

3. Name some of the attitudes and obstacles that block the spirit of collaboration. How can these be overcome?

4. What will you do to improve the conditions of the mission field so that more people will get involved?

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